

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14717

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS - L
TAGS: PFOR, FR, US, VN
SUBJECT: FRENCH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON GVN
ASSETS FROZEN BY USG

1. QUAI DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENTIONS AND
CONSULAR AFFAIRS, CHAYET, SAID THAT DURING THE
RECENT VISIT OF THE VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER
PHAM VAN DONG THEY DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF ASSETS
BELONGING TO FRENCH CITIZENS OR RELATIVES OF FRENCH
CITIZENS WHO WERE PERMITTED TO COME TO FRANCE.
ALTHOUGH THE SRV PERMITTED THE RELEASE OF FRANC
ACCOUNTS TO THESE PERSONS, THEY SAID THAT ALL DOLLAR
ACCOUNTS WERE CONFISCATED BY THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.
NO LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
DOLLAR ACCOUNTS WAS GIVEN, BUT THERE WAS THE IMPLI-
CATION THAT DOLLAR ACCOUNTS WERE MORE MORALLY TAINTED
THAN FRANC OR PIASTER ACCOUNTS. CHAYET ASKED
ABOUT THE STATUS OF VARIOUS VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL AND
PRIVATE ACCOUNTS WHICH THE USG HAS FROZEN. WE
THINK CHAYET WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
VIETNAMESE DOLLAR ACCOUNTS IN US BANKS IN FRANCE AND
DOLLAR ACCOUNTS IN FRENCH BANKS WORLDWIDE, IF ANY.
WE DO
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NOT THINK THAT CHAYET IS THINKING OF ANY THREE WAY
DEAL TO TRY TO ENCOURAGE THE SRV TO RELEASE DOLLAR
ACCOUNTS TO FRENCH CITIZENS BUT MERELY WISHES TO BE
INFORMED ABOUT THE US POSITION TO ASSIST THE GOF IN
UNDERSTANDING VIETNAMESE REACTIONS. WE CONSIDER THE
VIETNAMESE POSITION TO BE VERY IMPORTANT AS AN
INDICATION OF HOW THE SRV MAY HANDLE ANY DISCUSSIONS

WITH THE US CONCERNING MUTUALLY BLOCKED ASSETS.
COOPERATIONS WITH THE FRENCH ON THIS MATTER SHOULD
THEREFORE HELP PREPARE THE USG FOR EVENTUAL DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH THE SRV.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO
CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY FOR INFORMA-
TION CONCERNING VIETNAMESE ASSETS, GOVERNMENTAL AND
PRIVATE, WHICH HAVE BEEN BLOCKED AND AMERICAN
ASSETS GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE WHICH WERE BLOCKED
IN SAIGON.
GAMMON

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